

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and glorify. May he strengthen you and hold you in his arms, Lord Jesus, when our Lord comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life; you should mind your own business and your hands, just as we told you. Brothers you do not want

to be informed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

Objectives: We want to begin to recognize the marks of a true follower of Christ as revealed in chapter 1. We want to examine our lives to see what kind of gospel is ringing forth from our lives. We want to expect transformation from ourselves and the people we lead.

Explore: 1 Thess. 1:1-10

Last week we focused on Paul's pattern of thankfulness. How did it go thanking God this week for the guys you lead?

I shared last week that Paul is giving thanks because he knows that they are chosen.

How does Paul "know" that they are chosen by God? What does 1:4-10 reveal about the basis of his assurance?

1. *He knows because the Gospel worked! (v. 5) It came with power!*
 - What evidence can we look for to "tell" if the gospel has come with power, the Holy Spirit and conviction?
2. *He knows because they became imitators of "us and the Lord."*
3. How old were these believers in their faith?

What caused Paul to call them imitators?

- *They joyfully received the Word with much affliction (v. 6)*
 - How is that an imitation of Paul and Jesus?
 - What was the result of their suffering? *They were an "example" or "model" (typos) to all the believers (7).*
 - In what ways were they a model for others?
 - What do you think it means to be a model for others? *Typos= pattern or mold used to reproduce more molds. Model is*

singular... Done in community. Explain how word studies can help us.

- What does that communicate to us about our lives as believers? *Our lives have a purpose beyond our own well being. We exist to be a type for others. Essence of discipleship is imitation...*
- What needs to change in your life in order for you be an effective "typos," or model for others? In other words when you think of your "mold" what is good and what needs to change?

➤ *The Word of the Lord sounded forth from the top of Greece to the bottom (v. 8). Had an echo effect.*

- How did the Word go forward (*word and deed*)
- What happens if we proclaim God's Word without living out our faith?
- What happens if we live out the faith without proclaiming God's Word?
- What needs to change in your life so that you will proclaim the gospel with words and with your life?
- How old were these believers in their faith? How much training? Lay people?
- What did others hear about the Thessalonians' faith? *They turned from idols, served the living God and waited in expectation for Jesus to return.*
- What stands out to you about this one sentence description of the gospel?
- What is lacking in your life?
- For consideration- if I met people in your sphere of influence, how would they describe your faith?

- How did “the coming wrath” affect Paul?
- How does it affect you? Do you believe there is a coming wrath? How is it “good news”?

When the Word of God comes into a person’s life (even a young believer), we should expect transformation. Is that an expectation you have? Why or why not?

Summary:

According to this chapter, what are the things that should mark a true follower of Jesus?

Faith, love, hope, joy in the face of suffering, the Word of the Lord and their faith ringing out, turning from idols to serve the living God.

Apply: (at least 15 minutes!)

- How should this chapter of scripture affect our lives?
- How do our expectations of those we lead need to change?
- What is one thing you can do practically this week?
- Who is one person who would benefit hearing what you learned this week?

Homework:

- Complete Homework #3
- The HW includes the ESV so you and your students can mark it up... It will help them learn how to compare/contrast.